

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. We pray that Your spirit of reconciliation and peace, of goodwill and understanding, will prevail on the hearts and in the lives of us all.

Encourage the Members of this House, O God, to use their abilities and talents in ways that bring righteousness to this Nation and to all people. Ever remind them of the needs of the poor, the homeless or forgotten, and those who live without freedom or liberty.

May Your spirit live with them and with each of us, and may Your grace surround us and those we love, that, in all things, we may be the people You would have us be in service to this great Nation.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today unable to understand why we stand by and watch as our country's future is threatened. It seems as though each week delivers a new disastrous element to the train wreck that is in ObamaCare.

Now that that implementation of ObamaCare's employer mandate has been delayed, more uncertainty has been created among business owners.

Mr. President, you cannot bargain with America's economy in hopes that your political philosophy succeeds.

I find it ironic that the President has now conveniently chosen to listen to the American people, when business owners like myself have been screaming for years. This administration is struggling to prove the merits of ObamaCare it initially advertised and now resorts to excuses. Delay after delay proves ObamaCare is unsustainable.

The bill was passed. We now finally know what's in the bill. Now it's time to repeal it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN RATE HIKE

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. My, my, Mr. Speaker.

Jade Andrushka is a Palm Beach State College student with big dreams and a small bank account. Her mother is a hospice social worker, has solely supported Jade while paying back her own student loans for over 20 years so that she and her daughter could have a better life.

Well, Mr. Speaker, July 1 has come and gone, and the Federal student loan rates have doubled, making college more expensive for millions of American families, including Jade and her mom, who now face two generations of loans.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a simple fix by Congress to do the right thing, reverse this excessive rate hike, and clear the path to one of the most important pathways to American prosperity—a college education.

My, my, my, Mr. Speaker. Can't we all work together to get this done?

GAS AND GROCERIES

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, when I go to the grocery store at home on Saturday mornings, I talk to Hoosier moms and dads concerned with high prices at the pump and the checkout line.

According to reports last month, gas prices in the five Midwestern States ranked in the top nine States nationally, with some folks in Indiana, motorists, paying \$4 per gallon.

A Starke County constituent wrote to me on the Fourth of July and said he canceled his holiday plans because he needed to save money for a tank of gas. He wondered what is Congress doing about it.

How can we help hardworking Americans keep more money in their wallets and pay less for gas and groceries?

The House passed two bills to address high energy prices, to create more jobs, and move our country closer toward energy independence. I supported these commonsense measures for single parents, for families, college students, senior citizens struggling to make ends meet during these tough economic times.

I urge the Senate and the President to join the House and pass this legislation to open more offshore areas for the development of natural resources.

A trip to the grocery store or a stop at the gas station should not be breaking the bank of Americans. Let's show the American people Congress can work together on basic solutions to make their daily lives a bit easier.

SO MUCH LEFT UNDONE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, so much left undone.

Our students are crying out. Maybe they're saying, "Mercy."

To avoid this 6.8 percent increase in their rates, putting hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt on our college students, Congress must act immediately, and we must push and drive those who believe our students are not important.

Undone. The high unemployment of youth. In our meeting with the President yesterday, I mentioned the idea that we must construct a program that deals with underemployed or unemployed youth, particularly those high numbers in our minority community.

And then, of course, the prevention of youth violence, gun violence, that is a crucial issue for all of us. The Congressional Black Caucus will be working extensively with the President to help drive legislation that will pass reasonable gun violence prevention legislation but, more importantly as well, keep our young people alive, keep them